

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 15 of the present specification as follows:

FIGS. 5A to 5H identify several embodiments of rotational automatic locking device consistent with the present invention, but should be deemed as exemplary and not limiting. In particular, rotational automatic locks could be of most shapes or configurations, such as, for example, rectangular, trapezoidal, triangular, square, circular, elliptical, spherical, conical, or the like. At least FIGS. 5I and 5J illustrate a generally wedge shaped locking device having at least one triangle shaped side 551 and multiple planar trapezoid faces 553, 555, 557. Similarly, the lock is provided by an increase in friction that can be provided by many styles of design, such as wrapping the suture about locking posts or dragging the suture along the wall of a tube or cylinder.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 14 of the present specification as follows:

Referring now to FIGS. 6A to 6D, sliding locking devices are shown. Referring first to FIG. 6A, a sliding, locking device 602 comprises an outer housing assembly 604, an inner housing assembly 606, at least one gap 608 between the outer housing assembly 604 and inner housing 606, and a suture 610. Suture 610 resides in the at least one gap 608, but could also reside in a channel 612 (shown in phantom) in inner housing 606. During device deployment, tamping forces and tension on suture 610 cause suture 610 to engage inner housing assembly 606

and lift inner housing. Once deployed, tamping forces are removed and tension on suture 610 is no longer sufficient to lift inner housing assembly 606. Because inner housing assembly 606 is no longer being lifted, it drops and mates with housing assembly 604, effectively clamping and locking suture 610. A collagen 614 expands and provides additional seating force between outer housing assembly 604 and inner housing assembly 606. FIGS. 6B to 6D show alternative embodiments of slide, locking assembly 620, 630, and 640. The inner housing assemblies 606 of the locking assemblies 602, 620, 630, 640 each include a wedge shaped portion 607 that is generally triangular shaped. The wedge shaped portion 607 includes a surface 609 that faces a surface 611 of the outer housing assembly 604. These embodiments should be deemed exemplary of locking mechanisms that have bodies that slide into a fitted arrangement to lock a suture.